

CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

Art Commission MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 24, 2008

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Arts Commission Members Present:

☐ Shelley Brittingham
☒ Donna DiFore
☒ Rochelle Flynn
☐ Victoria Hall

☒ Laurie Haslund
☐ Maureen Hoffmann
☒ Dane Johnson
☒ Kathy Justin

☐ David Ketcherside
☒ June Yormark

Staff Present:

Debbie Zemke, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Supervisor
Gina Kallman, Cultural Arts Supervisor

Guests:

James Harrison, Portland Artist
Randi Lacey, Past Commissioner and Burien Resident

Minutes

Minutes approved. Meeting called to order.

Review Panel Recommendations for Town Square Public Artwork Design- Presentation by Portland Artist James Harrison

On June 12th, three artists presented their proposals to the Public Art Panel for the Town Square public art project. The three proposals were very different and creative solutions. Dan Corson presented a piece with the most challenges as many of the details of the work were incomplete and needed more research; Dan also had time constraints that could have hindered the project. The proposal by artist Claudia Fitch was stunning but did not seem to be the best fit for the Town Square Park. The panel in the end choose artist James Harrison, as his proposal worked best with the project criteria.

Artist James Harrison presented his proposal to the Arts Commission at the June 24th meeting. As an artist and designer (he came from an architecture background), James has chosen to create a piece that would fit with the feel of the city of Burien. He wanted to make a piece that put color against the gray sky that is so prevalent in the Northwest. The artist looked at many pictures of Burien on Flickr (viewed this as how others also saw the city) and was able to create a color palette for the city, based on the ideas of city, sea, and mountains. His proposed artwork is a giant stainless steel basket that can be entered; a woven sculpture. He hopes the piece will look good against the skyline, the mountains, the existing buildings, and the long western sun. The commission should not see the model as the final piece, but instead as a gesture or schematic. After the project gets a green light he will then create the final design. The final project will include the safety laminated colored glass for the "roof" of the piece, and acrylic for colored pieces along the sides. As the cost of stainless steel has skyrocketed, the size of the final piece may be limited by the cost.

The final piece will be similar to a cathedral with stain glass windows, but in this case the stained glass will surround you. James would like to see pavilion used for events, weddings, etc. To

provide lighting conduit can be run through steel to create light shooting up at glass. James will also work with landscape architects on the lighting plan. The ground around the piece will be decomposed granite, to create a feel of transition as you walk to sculpture. The current title of the work is the *Sun Pavilion*, but the name may change as the work changes. James would like to make the piece at 30 feet if the budget will allow.

Dane thought that Steve Clark (project developer) may have some leeway with park design, and could possibly provide extra money to play with to create piece in the right scale for the park and have correct lighting, etc. James felt that the piece would be stronger at 30 feet and less constrained by ADA and other safety requirements. The cost would be approximately \$120,000 to build to 30ft.

Strawberry Festival & Summer Music/Movies

The Strawberry Festival is this weekend and we are expecting good weather. The event should offer great music, performance, and buskers, such as the Trash Apes. BAA is hosting a battle of the artists. Other performers are Bird Show of North America, Total Experience Gospel, as well as food and visual artists. Arts Commissioner Laurie Haslund and June Yormark will be face painting. For the teens we will have a Wii tournament, a skate board tournament, and breakdancers. Dane let everyone know that Artopia will have a fire circus performance at 9 PM on Saturday near Airport Way.

Music and Movies is starting July 3rd. We will also send out an e-mail about volunteer coverage for the Toobs installation.

Arts Commission Size

Debbie brought to the table the issue of Arts Commission size: *should we reduce the arts commission size from current size of 11 members as other City of Burien boards have 7 members?* Any city resident can be involved in the commission and a large amount of time is needed to recruit and train new members, so it would be helpful to have a smaller group. Another issue is a larger group can dilute the work plan, but larger commission can also be more diverse and may have more influence on council, so there are pros and cons. The Arts Commission needs to make recommendation to the City Council for the July Council meeting.

Dane brought up that the Commission had agreed at the February meeting that the commission could shrink and grow as needed (a range of 7-11 commissioners by attrition). Dane felt that having a larger commission is helpful when commissioners are busy and can only give a limited amount of time. When the commission formed it was a working body as the members needed to do fundraise, create programming, etc. This not possible today due to time constraints of the commissioners. Laurie suggested that the commission needed to know if they are an advisory or working board, as a small number is appropriate for advisory, and a larger number are needed for a working board. *What does the Council want?* Dane asked if the commission is sending mixed message to council when they are asking for more money but fewer members.

Dane motioned that the City of Burien allow the Arts Commission, through attrition, to have a range 7 to 11 members, and have the ability to recruit members when needed. The motion passed unanimously.

2009 Arts & Cultural Review committee

The applications deadline is coming up July 31st. The review committee will be Dane, Maureen, Kathy, David, and Donna.

Areas of Focus Reports

Public Art

Owners and representatives of Urban Partners are interested in the sculpture Dan Corson proposed for the Town Square. Urban Partners is also helping to bring *The Passage* to Burien, and place it on Parcel 5 (the old Bartells). Dane is meeting with Urban Partners Wednesday, June 25 to pitch the idea and see if Urban Partners can cover the remaining cost (over the \$10,000 given by the Commission.) Dane would also like to see the city pay for grading and seeding of Parcel 5 to create a park-like setting. Debbie thought that the city does not have funding to grade and seed and that it would need to come out of public art fund (around \$40,000 available), but we may be able to request funding for maintenance. Dane will be approaching two other Seattle arts organizations that may help with budget (Ignition NW and Pratt). It will cost \$5,000 to make piece the piece fully functional.

The arts commission made a motion on the James Harrison public art piece-- that the work should be recommended to the Council. The Commission felt strongly that work is well thought out and will work well in the Burien community. It will be a compliment to other work being installed in the community.

Downtown Art Walk

The artwalk will be held Saturday, September 6th from 11:00am-9:00 PM. There will be a traditional art walk from 11-6 run by Discover Burien, with an Arts Bash and Lantern Parade from 6-9 PM with music, performance, buskers and more.

Literary Art

The committee meet and decided to do mini summit and create committees to work on literary art. The summit will be September 30th and will be at Page 2 Books. The committee will look at what programming can be created. Kathy suggested that they talk to the teen librarian at the Burien Library. Debbie reminded the commission that the teen council may not have meet by Sept 30th, but an interested teen may not have to come from teen council.

Arts Summit

Debbie sent out notes and addressed three main questions. Debra Twersky will be sending another survey out to get a bit more information from attendees before next summit meeting is scheduled.

Cultural Identity

Nothing to report

Staff Report

Site Specific artist Byron Au Yong has been selected to create and perform a series of 64 miniature operas, **Kidnapping Water**, during July and August of 2008. *Kidnapping Water* explores the interaction of water and humans throughout our physical environment, everything from water fountains to our rivers and the Puget Sound. The artist will be performing at Seahurst Park on Saturday, August 16th, sometime between 11AM and 2 PM.

LAA Recap

Gina attended the meeting on May 22 at the King County Library in Issaquah. The presentation was on new communication such as blogging and podcasts as well as the KCLS public art program.

Burien Community Center

Rochelle discussed the City's proposal to build a new community center. The bond was to be issued this fall or spring but due to the lack of support in the council for placing the bond the city has chosen to focus on Plan B. It will be discussed at the July 7 council meeting.

Plan B is to have the community center programming moved to the old library (approx. December 31, 09) and the current community center would be demolished and seeded to make a park. Then in 3 to 5 years the city would place a bond on the ballot for public approval for a new community center. Demo may only be for a portion of the building, leaving the auditorium to be used. At the Art Summit Dick Loman (Burien Economic Development Director) saw the need for space by the local non-profits. He felt that instead of demoing the building it could be used by arts organizations. Plan C would be a consortium of arts groups who would lease and run building. An issue is that the arts organizations are not an organized group and that separate groups would need time to work together and create a proposal.

The Commissioners are invited to come to the July 7th meeting when Plan C will be discussed with Burien arts organizations. Plan C would be temporary until the bond is passed.

The Commissioners felt it would be a waste to demo the building if costs could be covered to run...especially when the need exists for indoor space.

Debbie passed out information on the University District sculpture project.

Meeting adjourned.